

SENATOR ROGER MARSHALL
State of Kansas

WASHINGTON OFFICE
Russell Senate Office Building, B-33
Washington, D.C. 20002



United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

May 20, 2024

The Honorable Amit Bose
Deputy Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Deputy Administrator Bose,

I write in support of Watco's application for funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration's *Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI)* grant program to replace and repair strategic railroad bridges located across the entire Watco network, which spans throughout North America.

Watco's grant application proposes the replacement or repair of 116 bridges that traverse waterways in both Kansas and neighboring states. Without these improvements, Watco would be forced to place weight restrictions on the bridges, which would force more truck traffic onto locally-maintained roads and into residential areas. Continued deterioration of the bridges could cause substantial disruptions in Watco's services, which would impact the company's business model and its freight customers.

Many Kansas industries rely on short line rail to move parts and inventory from one market to another. Local communities also benefit from the presence of rail and its ability to move goods in regions that Class 1 railroads do not service. However, much of our nation's short line rail infrastructure is in desperate need of repair to remain usable for the next decade or more.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of Watco's application. It is imperative that we continue make investments into their rail lines and bridges to ensure the continued flow of goods. My office stands ready to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger W. Marshall".

Roger Marshall, M.D.
U.S. Senate